

The passage of HB2002 would make a further farce of our current sentencing parameters. At this time, it is already too easy for prosecutors to simply allow pleading down to a lesser crime. This is often done to avoid Measure 11 sentences. The voters passed Measure 11, only to now see it be virtually ignored in many cases.

I reside in Albany, which puts parts of it in Linn and Benton Counties. The sad part is that prosecutors in both counties, in consort with spineless judges, allow most cases to be plead down to relatively "nothing" sentences! Recent examples include a repeat offender serial arsonist who destroyed a local Veterans facility in Albany. By the time this case was resolved, the criminal was out of prison before the building had even been rebuilt! It is not unusual for violent offenders to get little, if any penalty.

The voters mandated minimum sentences through Measure 11. At a minimum, these need to be adhered to, and often need even stronger sentences meted out. I am a member of a local group, recently formed in this area, that is now monitoring all criminal cases for the sentencing being issued out by judges, and vis a vis, the prosecutors. Our sole function is to publicly identify these weak judges and prosecutors, and to see that they not be re-elected, and in a few cases, be held accountable thru disbarment proceedings for ignoring their sworn duties. The sad part is that we have already easily identified a few egregious offenders at both levels! If Measure 11 was properly (and legally) enforced, our group would cease to exist, as it would be unnecessary!

Please, respect the will of a large majority of voters, and uphold the original intent of Measure 11! This can easily be started by killing off HB2002. It is time to respect the laws, not weaken them to placate the drug-induced thieves, repeat sexual deviants, gangbangers, etc.! If the judges and prosecutors do not want to enforce the current laws, so be it...we will find new ones to uphold the law as written. The days of Oregon being a haven for criminals must stop now! HB2002 is not needed.